



Cal EMA
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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CALIFORNIA FUSION CENTER LEADERS RECOGNIZED AS NATION'S BEST AT NATIONAL FUSION CENTER CONFERENCE

Cal EMA Secretary Bettenhausen participates in funding panel

NEW ORLEANS, LA- California Emergency Management Agency Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen today congratulated two members of California's Fusion Centers after they received national recognition at the National Fusion Center Conference underway in New Orleans, Louisiana.

- **Fusion Center Federal Representative of the Year – FBI agent Leslie Gardner, Executive Director, Los Angeles Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)**, was nominated for her leadership in developing the JRIC into a nationally recognized model of cooperation and collaboration between agencies of all sizes and missions. She has been responsible for initiating policies, processes, and programs which exceeded expectations and drove standards across the national network of fusion centers.
- **State/Local Fusion Center Representative of the Year – Mike Sena, Deputy Director, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC)**, was recognized for his leadership and management of the NCRIC's growth and maturation. Under his leadership, the fusion center has expanded its all-crimes/all-hazards mission by providing superior customer service and expanding its partnerships across all levels of government.

In addition, the 12 pilot sites for the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) initiative were recognized for their support to the country's homeland security mission. One of the sites is the Los Angeles Police Department. Specifically, **Joan McNamarra, LAPD awarded for her work developing SAR program and implementation.**

"I offer my congratulations and heartfelt thanks for the contributions of these fine public servants as they continue to make California safer and more secure," said Secretary Bettenhausen. "This is great news for California as it shows our efforts and practices are recognized as some of the nation's finest. Again, congratulations to all."

During an awards presentation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment recognized outstanding fusion centers and their leadership.

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Bart Johnson, DHS Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, said of the award winners: “It is an honor and a privilege to recognize the outstanding contributions of partners at all levels of government in support of the national network of fusion centers as they continue to evolve to enhance our national security.”

Tom O’Reilly, Senior Advisor at the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, said of the SAR pilot sites: “We are proud to recognize the important contributions of each of these locations. Their leadership has strengthened our nation’s security.”

As part of a panel discussion, Cal EMA Secretary Bettenhausen addressed sustainability of fusion centers through challenging budgetary times. His focus included the innovative techniques that California is using to fund fusion centers in addition to US Department of Homeland Security grants.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and DHS Deputy Secretary Jane Holl Lute were the keynote speakers on the first day of the conference, which brought together close to 1,000 fusion center, federal, state, local and tribal partners for the fourth consecutive year.

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